

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child and Family Services Review

CONNECTICUT

The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) assesses State performance during a specified time period with respect to seven child welfare outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being and with respect to seven systemic factors. The assessment is based on information from the following sources:

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the State child welfare agency – the Department of Children and Families (DCF);
- The State Data Profile prepared by the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- Reviews of 50 cases from three counties in the State; and
- Interviews or focus groups (conducted at all three counties and the State capital) with a wide range of stakeholders including children, parents, foster parents, various levels of State and local DCF personnel, collaborating agency personnel, school personnel, mental health providers, court personnel, legislators, and attorneys.

Review results determined Connecticut’s child welfare programs to be in substantial conformity with Child Well-Being Outcome 2—Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs, with 90 percent of the cases reviewed reported to have substantially achieved this outcome. The State also met the national standards for measures relating to foster care re-entries and the stability of foster care placements. In addition, the following individual items assessed for the seven outcomes were rated as a Strength:

- Initiating investigations to child maltreatment reports in a timely manner and consistent with agency policy guidelines (item 1).
- Providing services to families to protect children in their homes and prevent removal (item 3).
- Addressing the issue of risk of harm to children (item 4).
- Placing children in close proximity to their biological families (item 11) and with their siblings (item 12) when possible and in the children's best interest.
- Preserving other cultural, familial and community connections (item 14) and promoting relationships between children in foster care and their parents (item 16).
- Conducting regular visits with children to assess their needs and progress with respect to the case plan (item 19).
- Ensuring that children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs (item 21).

However, the State did not achieve substantial conformity with six of the seven remaining safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. The State also did not meet national standards for measures relating to repeat maltreatment, maltreatment of children in foster care, the length of time to achieve reunification, or the length of time to achieve adoption. The most significant concern with regard to outcomes is the State’s inconsistency in achieving permanency for children in foster care. For example, Permanency

Outcome 1—Children have permanency and stability in their living situations—was found to be substantially achieved in only 50 percent of the foster care cases reviewed. Key areas assessed as part of this outcome pertain to the appropriateness of the permanency goal for children (item 7); attainment of permanency through reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relative (item 8); or attainment of permanency through adoption (item 9).

Another area of concern related to Child and Family Well Being Outcome 1—Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs. During the case review only 66 percent of the cases were found to have substantially achieved this outcome, which included assessments of whether children and families received needed services (item 17), children and families were involved in case planning (item 18), and the frequency of caseworker visits with children and parents (items 19 and 20). The State also did not achieve substantial conformity with Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 3—Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs—with only 71.5 percent of the cases reported to have substantially achieved that outcome.

With respect to the seven systemic factors, the CFSR process determined that the State was found to be in substantial conformity with regard to the quality assurance system, the training efforts for child welfare staff and child caregivers, the array of services available to families, and foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention . However, the State was not in substantial conformity with factors pertaining to the Statewide information system, case review system, and agency responsiveness to the community.

The following is a summary of the CFSR findings regarding specific outcomes and systemic factors.

KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

I. SAFETY

Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Status of Safety Outcome S1 – Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut did not achieve substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1. Although in 91.1 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that this outcome had been substantially achieved, the State did not meet the national standard for either repeat maltreatment or maltreatment of children in foster care. A summary of the findings for specific items assessed under this outcome is presented below.

Item 1. Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment

Item 1 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because reviewers determined that in 89 percent of the applicable cases DCF responded to reports in a timely manner.

Item 2. Repeat maltreatment

Item 2 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for the following reasons:

- The incidence of repeat maltreatment reported in the State Data Profile was 11.4 percent, which exceeds the national standard of 6.5 percent. (although repeat maltreatment is measured in a different way in the State Data Profile than in the onsite case review).
- There was repeat maltreatment in 3 of the 15 cases in which there was at least one substantiated maltreatment during the period under review.

This finding is consistent with data from the Statewide Assessment indicating that DCF's analysis of additional available data resulted in a finding of a 10.8 percent rate of recurrence of maltreatment within a 6-month period.

Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Status of Safety Outcome S2 – Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut did not achieve substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 2. This determination was based on the finding that the outcome was substantially achieved in 87 percent of the cases reviewed, which is less than the 90 percent required for a rating of substantial conformity.

Item 3. Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal

Item 3 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because in 87.5 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that the agency had made diligent efforts to maintain children safely in their homes. This finding is consistent with information reported in the Statewide Assessment indicating that since 1998, the rate of children entering care as the result of an investigation has been consistently lower than 12 percent and was down to 8.5 percent in 2000. A current initiative that is being implemented Statewide, called KidCare, is designed to promote family stability by providing access to behavioral health interventions as soon as a need is identified.

Item 4. Risk of harm to child

Item 4 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because reviewers determined that in 87 percent of the cases, DCF made sufficient efforts to reduce risk of harm to children.

II. PERMANENCY

Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Status of Permanency Outcome 1 – Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut did not achieve substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 1. This determination was based on the following:

- Although the State met the national standards for foster care re-entries and stability of foster care placements, the State did not meet the national standards for reunifications within 12 months of entry into foster care and adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care.
- Only 50 percent of the cases reviewed were rated as having substantially achieved Permanency Outcome 1, which is less than the 90 percent required for substantial conformity.

A summary of the findings for specific items assessed under this outcome is presented below.

Item 5. Foster care re-entries

Although the State's incidence of foster care re-entry of 6.0 percent meets the national standard of 8.6 percent, item 5 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. This is based on the finding that whereas in 40 percent of the 5 applicable cases children did not re-enter foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode, in 60 percent of the applicable cases, children did re-enter care during that time period.

Item 6. Stability of foster care placement

Item 6 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. In 73 percent of the cases, children were found to have stability in their foster care placements. However in 27 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that children did not have placement stability and/or that placement changes were not for the purpose of meeting children's needs. Although the State Data Profile indicates that 92.8 percent of children in foster care in the State for 12 months or less during FY 2000 had no more than two placement settings (which meets the national standard of 86.7 percent), this statistic reflects a different measure of stability than the assessment used during the case review process.

Item 7. Permanency goal for child

Item 7 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. In 73 percent of the cases, appropriate permanency goals were established in a timely manner. Concerns were raised in 27 percent of the cases, however, where reviewers determined that DCF had not established appropriate permanency goals for children in a timely manner.

Item 8. Reunification, Guardianship or Permanent Placement with Relatives

This item was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement based on the following:

- According to the State Data Profile, the State's percentage for reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into care is 55.1 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent.
- In 64 percent of the applicable cases, reviewers found that diligent efforts to bring about permanency had been made. In 36 percent (5) of the 14 applicable cases, however, reviewers rated this item as an Area Needing Improvement because they determined that the agency had not made diligent efforts to bring about permanency for children with a goal of reunification, permanent placement with relatives, or guardianship.

The primary issue observed during the case review process was that timely attainment of guardianships was problematic. For most of the cases in which the goal was reunification, reviewers noted that DCF workers were effective in their efforts to achieve timely permanency.

Item 9. Adoption

Item 9 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement based on the following:

- In 50 percent of the applicable cases, reviewers determined that the agency was engaging in sufficient efforts to finalize adoptions for children in foster care. In the remaining 50 percent, however, it was determined that the agency was not engaging in sufficient efforts to achieve finalized adoptions for children in foster care.
- The State Data Profile indicates that the percentage of finalized adoptions in FY 2000 that occurred within 24 months of removal from home (6.5%) is less than the National standard of 32.0.

According to the Statewide Assessment, although exits to adoption are on the rise, the time to achieve this goal also is increasing.

Item 10. Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement

Item 10 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. Although in 75 percent (6) of the 8 applicable cases, reviewers determined that DCF made concerted efforts to explore alternative permanency options, in 25 percent (2) of the 8 applicable cases, reviewers determined that these efforts had not been made.

Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Status of Permanency Outcome 2 – Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut did not achieve substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 2. This determination was based on the finding that the outcome was rated as substantially achieved in only 80.8 percent of the cases, which is less than the 90 percent required for substantial conformity. Although the State did not achieve substantial conformity with this outcome, there were many strengths

identified in the performance indicators related to this outcome. A summary of findings for specific items assessed relevant to this outcome is presented below.

Item 11. Proximity of foster care placement

Item 11 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because in 96 percent of the applicable cases, reviewers determined that children had been placed in foster care homes that were in close proximity to their parents or, when children were placed far away from parents, the placement was necessary to meet the special needs of the child.

Item 12. Placement with siblings

Item 12 was assigned an overall rating of Strength based on the finding that in 87.5 percent of the cases, siblings were either placed together or there was a justifiable reason for their separation.

Item 13. Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care

Item 13 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. In 72 percent of the applicable cases reviewers determined that the agency had made diligent efforts to facilitate visits between the child and his or her parents and siblings. There were concerns, however, because in 28 percent of the applicable cases reviewers determined that DCF had not made, or was not making, concerted efforts to facilitate visitation, particularly between siblings in foster care.

Item 14. Preserving connections

Item 14 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because in 92 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that children's connections to family and community, particularly to their biological families, were maintained.

Item 15. Relative placement

Item 15 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. In 78 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that efforts to locate and assess relatives as potential placement resources had been made. Concerns were raised in 22 percent of the cases because the agency had not made diligent efforts to locate and assess relatives as potential placement resources. In particular, insufficient efforts were found with regard to seeking appropriate paternal relatives as placement resources.

Item 16. Relationship of child in care with parents

Item 16 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because in 90 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that the agency had made sufficient efforts to support or maintain the bond between parents and their children while the children were in foster care.

III. WELL-BEING

Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Status of Well-Being Outcome 1 – Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut did not achieve substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 1. This determination was based on the finding that the outcome was rated as substantially achieved in only 66 percent of the cases reviewed, which is less than the 90 percent required for a determination of substantial conformity. A general finding of the CFSR process with regard to this outcome was that DCF practice was inconsistent with regard to the involvement of fathers in terms of services, case planning, and visitation. A summary of findings for specific items assessed as relevant to this outcome is presented below.

Item 17. Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents

Item 17 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement because although in 70 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that the needs and services of children, parents, and/or foster parents were adequately addressed, in 30 percent, it was determined that they had not been, or were not being, adequately addressed by DCF.

Item 18. Child and family involvement in case planning

Item 18 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. While in 62 percent of the applicable cases, DCF appropriately involved parents or children in case planning, it was found that in 38 percent of the applicable cases, parents or children had not been appropriately involved in the case planning process. This finding and stakeholder comments indicate that there is an inconsistency in DCF regarding caseworkers' compliance with the policy requirements pertaining to parent involvement in case planning.

Item 19. Worker visits with child

Item 19 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because in 87 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that the frequency of caseworker visits with children was sufficient to ensure adequate monitoring of the child's safety and well-being.

Item 20. Worker visits with parents

This item was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. In 78 percent of the applicable cases, reviewers determined that the frequency of workers' visits with parents was sufficient to ensure children's safety and well being. However in 22 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that visits with parents were not sufficiently frequent or of sufficient quality to promote the safety and well-being of the child or increase movement toward permanency for the child.

Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Status of Well-Being Outcome WB2 – Substantial Conformity

Connecticut achieved substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 2. This determination is based on the finding that 90 percent of the cases reviewed were found to have substantially achieved this outcome, which meets the requirement for substantial conformity. A summary of findings for the specific item assessed as relevant to this outcome is presented below.

Item 21. Educational needs of the child.

Item 21 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because for 90 percent of the cases, reviewers determined that the educational needs of children were effectively and appropriately addressed.

Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Status Of Well-Being Outcome 3 - Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut did not achieve substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 3 because the outcome was rated as substantially achieved in only 71.5 percent of the applicable cases, which is less than the 90 percent required for a determination of substantial conformity. A summary of findings for specific items assessed as relevant to this outcome is presented below.

Item 22. Physical health of the child

Item 22 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. Although in 84 percent of the applicable cases DCF was found to be adequately addressing the health needs of children in both foster care and in-home settings, in 16 percent of the applicable cases DCF was not adequately addressing these needs.

Item 23. Mental health of the child

Item 23 was assigned an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement. In 72 percent of the applicable cases, reviewers determined that DCF was adequately addressing children's mental health assessment and service needs. Concerns were raised, however, in 28 percent of the applicable cases, where it was determined that DCF was not adequately addressing children's mental health assessment and service needs.

KEY FINDINGS RELATING TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

IV. STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Status of Statewide Information System – Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut is not in substantial conformity with this factor.

Item 24. The State is operating a Statewide information system that, at a minimum, can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.

Item 24 was rated as an Area Needing Improvement because functional improvements to ensure the State information system's capacity to identify and report goals for the placement of every child who is in foster care in accordance with State Plan requirements were not fully implemented at the time of the review.

V. CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Status of Case Review System – Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut is not in substantial conformity with the factor of Case Review System.

Item 25. Provides a process that ensures that each child has a written case plan to be developed jointly with the child's parent(s) that includes the required provisions.

Item 25 was rated as an Area Needing Improvement because although DCF is consistent in convening Treatment Planning Conferences (TPC) and Administrative Case Reviews (ACR) to ensure that each child has a case plan, the general consensus of stakeholders was that neither process functions as a means to engage families in the case planning process and parents are not routinely perceived as partners with the agency in the development of the case plan.

Item 26. Provides a process for the periodic review of the status of each child, no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.

Item 26 was rated as a Strength because DCF ensures that each child's case plan is reviewed every 6 months through an ACR.

Item 27. Provides a process that ensures that each child in foster care under the supervision of the State has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

Item 27 was rated as an Area Needing Improvement because stakeholders noted that although permanency hearings are routinely held, they frequently lead to full evidentiary hearings that result in delaying rather than expediting permanency for children.

Item 28. Provides a process for termination of parental rights proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Item 28 was rated as an Area Needing Improvement because although there is a process in place for termination of parental rights proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the process is not implemented on a consistent basis.

Item 29. Provides a process for foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

Item 29 is rated as an Area Needing Improvement because although there are procedures in place for notifying foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers regarding hearings and reviews, these procedures are not adhered to on a consistent basis.

VI. QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Status of Quality Assurance System-Substantial Conformity

Connecticut is in substantial conformity with the factor of Quality Assurance System.

Findings relevant to the specific items assessed for this factor are presented below.

Item 30. The State has developed and implemented standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children.

Item 30 was rated as a Strength because the State has developed and implemented standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services to ensure their safety and health.

Item 31. The State is operating an identifiable quality assurance system that is in place in the jurisdictions where the services included in the CFSP are provided, evaluates the quality of services, identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provides relevant reports, and evaluates program improvement measures implemented.

Item 31 was rated as a Strength because DCF has developed a quality assurance system that evaluates the quality of services, identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provides relevant reports, and evaluates program improvement measures.

VII. TRAINING

Status of Training-Substantial Conformity

Connecticut is in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Training. Findings relevant to the specific items assessed for this factor are presented below.

Item 32. The State is operating a staff development and training program that supports the goals and objectives in the CFSP, addresses services provided under titles IV-B and IV-E, and provides initial training for all staff who deliver these services.

Item 32 was assigned an overall rating of Strength because DCF operates a staff development and training program that supports the goals and objectives in the CFSP and provides initial training for all staff who deliver services provided under titles IV-B and IV-E.

Item 33. The State provides for ongoing training for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP.

Item 33 was rated as an Area Needing Improvement because although there are a wide range of ongoing training opportunities, stakeholders noted that there is no standardized core curriculum for staff beyond the preservice training, ongoing training is not mandated for workers, and there is no evidence of a coordinated DCF effort to promote ongoing skills development.

Item 34. The State provides training for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of State licensed or approved facilities that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

Item 34 is rated as a Strength because the State provides adequate training for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of State licensed or approved childcare facilities.

VIII. SERVICE ARRAY

Status of Service Array-Substantial Conformity

Connecticut is in substantial conformity with the factor of Service Array. Findings relevant to the specific items assessed for this factor are presented below.

Item 35. The State has in place an array of services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.
Item 35 is rated as a Strength because the State has in place an array of services to meet the needs of children and families.

Item 36. The services in item 35 are accessible to families and children in all political jurisdictions covered in the State's CFSP.

Item 36 was rated as an Area Needing Improvement because the accessibility of services varies considerably across the State and because there are long waiting lists for services in some regions of the State.

Item 37. The services in item 35 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.
Item 37 is rated as a Strength because the availability of flexible funds to access services supports agency efforts to individualize services.

IX. AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Status of Agency Responsiveness To The Community-Not in Substantial Conformity

Connecticut is not in substantial conformity with the factor of Agency Responsiveness to the Community. Findings relevant to the specific items assessed for this outcome are presented below.

Item 38. In implementing the provisions of the CFSP, the State engages in ongoing consultation with tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals and objectives of the CFSP.

Item 38 was rated as an Area Needing Improvement because the State does not consistently engage in ongoing consultation with all relevant community representatives. Specific concerns were noted by stakeholders with regard to DCF's relationship with the court system.

Item 39. The agency develops, in consultation with these representatives, annual reports of progress and services delivered.
Item 39 is rated as an Area Needing Improvement because of the need to engage in more consultation from both the tribes and the broader community in developing the CFSP and APSR.

Item 40. The State's services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other Federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

Item 40 is rated as a Strength because DCF has engaged in extensive coordination with other agencies in developing and implementing the KidCare initiative.

X. FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Status of Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention-Substantial Conformity

Connecticut is in substantial conformity with the factor of Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. Findings relevant to the specific items assessed for this outcome are presented below.

Item 41. The State has implemented standards for foster family homes and childcare institutions, which are reasonably in accord with recommended national standards.

Item 41 is rated as a Strength because the State has implemented standards for foster family homes and child care institutions that are in accord with recommended national standards.

Item 42. The standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-E or IV-B funds.

Item 42 is rated as Strength because the standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes (including kinship foster homes) or child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds.

Item 43. The State complies with Federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

Item 43 was rated as a Strength because the State complies with Federal requirements.

Item 44. The State has in place a process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed.

Item 44 is rated as an Area Needing Improvement because stakeholders noted that although there are procedures in place to promote recruitment, it is not clear that they are being implemented on a consistent basis.

Item 45. The State has in place a process for the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children.

Item 45 is rated as a Strength because the State has in place a process for the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the State of Connecticut. The findings were derived from the following documents and data collection procedures:

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the State child welfare agency – the Department of Children and Families (DCF);
- The State Data Profile prepared by the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- Reviews of 50 cases at three sites throughout the State; and
- Interviews or focus groups (conducted at all three sites and in the city where the State DCF office is located) with stakeholders, including children, parents, foster parents, all levels of child welfare agency personnel, collaborating agency personnel, school personnel, private/contract providers, mental health providers, court personnel, legislators, and attorneys.

The key characteristics of the 50 cases reviewed are the following:

- 20 cases were reviewed in Bridgeport, 15 in Waterbury, and 15 in Norwich.
- All 50 cases had been open cases at some time during the period under review.
- 26 of the cases were “foster care cases” (cases in which children were in the care and custody of the State child welfare agency and in an out-of-home placement at some time during the period under review), and 24 were “in-home services cases” (cases in which families received services from the child welfare agency while children remained in their homes or in voluntary placements).
- In 21 (42%) cases, all children in the family were Caucasian; in 9 (18%) cases, all children in the family were African American; in 10 (20%) cases, all children in the family were Hispanic; in 1 (2%) case, the children were Asian; and in 8 (16%) cases the children were of two or more races.
- For the 50 cases reviewed, the **primary** reasons for opening a child welfare agency case were the following:
 - Neglect (not including medical neglect) – 21 cases (42%)
 - Substance abuse by parent – 6 cases (12%)
 - Physical abuse – 5 cases (10%)
 - Mental/physical health of parent – 5 cases (10%)
 - Child’s behavior – 4 cases (8%)
 - Domestic violence in child's home - 3 cases (6%)
 - Mental/physical health of child - 3 cases (6%)
 - Sexual abuse - 1 case (2%)
 - Other – 2 cases (4%)
- Among **all** reasons identified for children coming to the attention of the child welfare agency, neglect (not including medical neglect) was cited in 35 (70%) cases, substance abuse by parents was cited in 24 (48%) cases, domestic violence in child's home

was cited in 16 cases (32%), physical abuse was cited in 12 cases (24%), emotional maltreatment was cited in 12 cases (24%), and child's behavior was cited in 12 cases (24%).

- For 19 (73%) of the 26 foster care cases, the children entered foster care prior to the period under review and remained in foster care during the entire period under review.
- For 16 (67%) of the 24 in-home services cases, the case was opened prior to the period under review.

The first section of the report presents the CFSR findings relevant to the State's performance in achieving specific outcomes for children in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being. For each outcome, there is a table providing the degree of outcome achievement by site, a presentation of the State's status with regard to substantial conformity with the outcome, and a discussion of each item assessed as part of the overall outcome assessment. The second section of the report provides an assessment and discussion of the systemic factors relevant to the child welfare agency's ability to achieve positive outcomes for children.